

King County Supports District Four Services

Despite a very tough budget year, the Fourth Council District (Magnolia, Queen Anne, Interbay, western Fremont, Ballard, Crown Hill, and part of Broadview) will receive County funding to preserve open space, protect the environment, and provide needed assistance to young, elderly and disabled citizens. Although we face severe shortfalls in the general fund, some 2003 support was included for the following, thanks largely in part to one-time funding or dedicated funding outside of the County's general fund.

**Waterworks** grant program supports grassroots efforts to improve the environment and health of our waterways.

**ElderFriends** provides social and health services to homebound seniors.

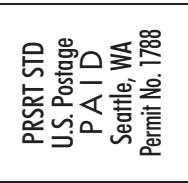
**Greenwood Senior Center** and the **NW Senior Activity Center** provide lifetime learning opportunities and activities for seniors.

**Broadview Shelter (Fremont Public Association)** and **Food Lifeline** provide shelter, meals and assistance for those who need it most.

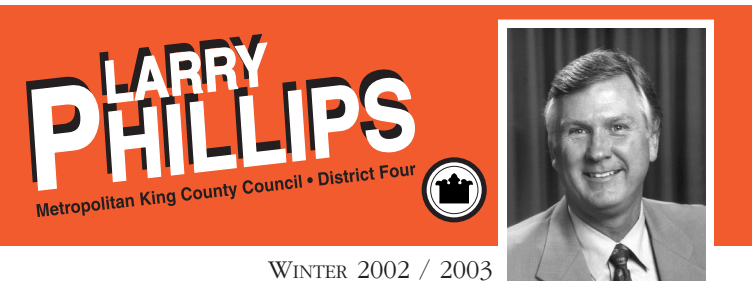
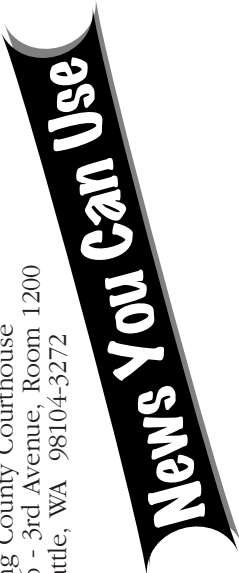
**United Indians for All Tribes** helps provide homeless youth with temporary housing.



The North Seattle Boys and Girls Club kids enthusiastically receive their "new" van, which was retired from METRO's VanPool fleet.



Councilmember Larry Phillips  
King County Courthouse  
516 - 3rd Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104-3272



Tough Choices About King County Services

Hello, I'm Larry Phillips, your representative elected to the Metropolitan King County Council for northwest Seattle, including the greater Ballard, Queen Anne and Magnolia neighborhoods (District Four).

Many Seattle residents benefit daily from King County services, including bus service, wastewater treatment, law and justice services, public health, human services, natural resource protection and growth management. Some of these services – those supported by the county's general fund – are now in jeopardy, as revenues have been depleted and cannot support the same levels of service King County has historically provided. I would like to give you a quick look at recent decisions and future outlook regarding your services.

As your District Four Councilmember and 2002 Chair of the Council's Budget & Fiscal Management Committee, I look forward to your comments and continued participation.



**Larry Phillips**, Councilmember  
Metropolitan King County Council, District Four  
King County Courthouse  
516 3rd Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 296-1004, [larry.phillips@metrokc.gov](mailto:larry.phillips@metrokc.gov)

Please visit the Council's Web site if you'd like to learn more: <http://www.metrokc.gov/mkcc>

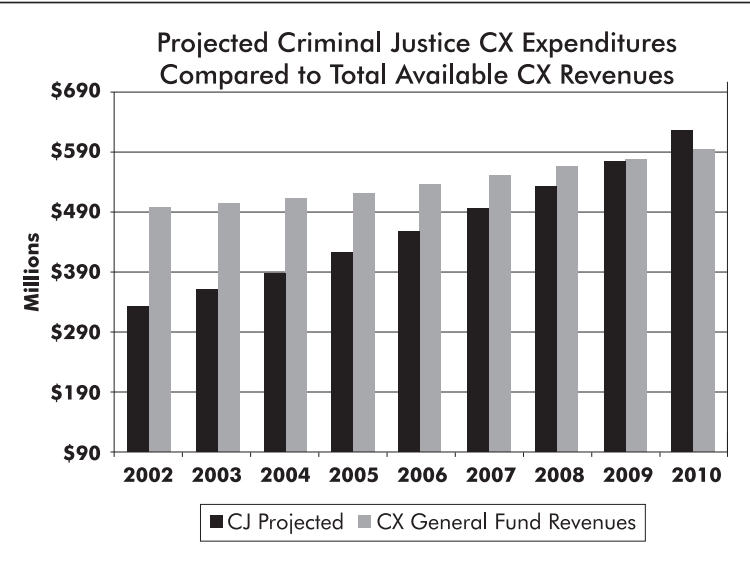
## Finding Efficiencies and Trimming Services

In the 2002 budget (crafted in 2001), King County cut a total of \$41 million through efficiencies and service reductions. In 2002, I served as Chair of the Budget & Fiscal Management Committee. I worked with my colleagues to cut an additional \$52 million in general-fund expenditures (roughly ten percent) from the 2003 budget. Facing our biggest fiscal challenge in a generation, we have crafted a budget plan that is a mix of compassion, thrift, resolve and heartache. We have worked hard to ensure the human service safety net that so many depend on is still there, but the reality is that some tough choices had to be made due to our \$52 million shortfall. We believe we have found the balance that keeps our streets safe while making sure vital services can operate. The outcome of our work:

- Transferred parks and pools to suburban cities where possible
- Secured one-time funding for a number of basic human services
- Created an independent public development authority to continue arts and cultural resources work independent of the general fund
- Curbed the growth of jail expenses

## The Roots of the Problem

King County general fund deficits are a result of a combination of factors, including a declining economy and a string of



voter initiatives that have eliminated previous sources of funding. We also have a shrinking tax base because many cities have incorporated or expanded into the areas around them, taking significant tax dollars with them while still using County Services.

By law we cannot supplement the general fund with revenues that are dedicated to other purposes; for example, the money you pay for METRO transit or wastewater treatment can't be used for park maintenance, immunizations or sheriff's officers.

In addition, public safety services consume a growing portion of the County's general fund. In 2002, they accounted for 68 percent of general fund expenditures; in 2004 they are projected to take up more than 75 percent. Without measures to curb costs or secure new revenue, law, safety and criminal justice expenditures have the potential to exceed all available general fund revenues by 2009 (see graph at left), making it more difficult to ensure public safety and provide other services.

## Preserving Core Services

How do we preserve core services in the face of an on-going funding crisis? Over the next two years, King County expects \$48 million in additional deficits, and will face increasingly tough choices. Options include making further reductions in service levels, eliminating services, or seeking stable revenue sources outside of the general fund – or some combination.



To protect services at a reasonable cost to taxpayers, the King County Council must work collaboratively with state and local partners, actively seek partnerships and support entrepreneurial ideas, and keep a keen eye to overall public need while working closely with elected officials and stakeholders. In addition, the Council must provide the public with full information about the decision-making process.

Securing a stable County funding source for human services (food banks, domestic violence and homeless shelters, senior centers and other services that help our neighbors) will require the support of the public and cooperative work with the state legislature and human service providers.

Given our faltering economy, now is the time for us to ensure that basic services are available for those most in need, as well as ensure that local services that we all use are sustained for years to come.



*Phillips leads Council to bipartisan 2003 budget.*

## County Services Threatened by General Fund Shortfalls:

- District & Superior Courts
- Jail — Adult & Juvenile Detention
- Prosecutor & Public Defense
- Sheriff
- Human Services
- Licensing & Regulatory Services
- King County Civic Television (CTV), channel 22 in most areas
- Tax Assessments, Ombudsman/Tax Advisor
- Records & Elections
- Parks & Recreation

## County Services Supported by Fees and Dedicated Revenues:

- Metro Transit
- Wastewater Treatment
- Solid Waste Management
- Local Hazardous Waste
- 911 Services
- Emergency Medical Services
- Seattle King County Public Health
- Development and Environmental Services
- King County International Airport (Boeing Field)
- Capital Improvements